



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Ault-Riche *et al.*

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For: *COLLECTIONS OF BINDING PROTEINS
AND TAGS AND USES THEREOF FOR
NESTED SORTING AND HIGH
THROUGHPUT SCREENING*

Art Unit: 1641

Examiner: Tran, M.

ELECTION AND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Responsive to the Requirement for Restriction, mailed October 2, 2002, applicant elects, with traverse, Group I, claims 1-37, 93 and 94, directed to a combination. Further, applicant elects the species where the oligonucleotide has formula 5'-E_m-3' for search purposes. It is also noted that the so-called species is generic to the other species. Accordingly, claims 1-37 and 93-95 as well as 49-54 read on the elected species. In addition, claim 95, which depends upon claim 29 and belongs in group I, was not included in the requirement for restriction in any group.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 38-48, 55-92 and 96-98 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add claim 99, as follows:

99. (New) The combination of claim 26, wherein each oligonucleotide further comprises a common region C, and comprises formula:

5' C-D_n-E_m 3',

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